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GEORGE R.

GEORGE by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these Presents shall or may appertain, Greeting. Whereas by an Act passed in the Seventh Year of Our Reign for raising a Sum not exceeding Five Hundred Thousand Pounds, by charging Annuities at the Rate of Five Pounds per Cent. per Ann. upon the Civil List Revenues till redeemed by the Crown, It is (amongst other things) Provided and Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for Us at any time, upon one Quarter of a Year's Notice to be given under Our Royal Sign Manual, and affixed upon the Royal Exchange in London, to redeem the said Annuities, and every of them: Now We in pursuance of the Power given to Us as aforesaid, do signify and declare, (in as much as Money sufficient will be reserved in the Receipt of Our Exchequer at Michaelmas next 1725, to pay to the then Proprietors of the said Annuities, the Consideration or Purchase-Money which was originally paid for the same, and all Arrearages of the said Annuities to that Quarterly Day of Payment,) That the said Annuities and every of them shall stand and be taken to be redeemed from and after that Day, and accordingly that the said Annuities shall from thenceforth cease and determine, and the Revenues on which the same are charged shall be then after discharged off, from, and against the same, according to the Directions of the said Act. Given at our Court at St. James's the Sixth Day of May 1725, in the Eleventh Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

R. Walpole.
Geo. Baillie.
Geo. Dodington.

Whitehall, May 14.

On the 6th of this Month the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh, and chose for their Moderator Mr. James Alston. His Majesty's Commission to the Right Honourable the Earl of Loudoun was read, as was likewise his Majesty's most Gracious Letter to the Assembly. His Majesty's High Commissioner made a Speech to the Assembly, which was answered on their Part by the Moderator. A Committee was ordered to draw up a dutiful Answer to His Majesty's most Gracious Letter, which being reported on the 8th was unanimously approved; and having been transmitted to his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, was by him presented to His Majesty on the 12th Instant. The High Commissioner's Speech was as follows.

Right Reverend and Right Honourable,

THE Church of Scotland, midst the Happiness which all His Majesty's Subjects enjoy under His wise and prudent Government, have many Reasons to be highly sensible, That they have a particular Share in the great Blessings of His Reign, having all along received many considerable Marks of His Royal Protection and Favour.

The Sense the King is pleased to express in His most gracious Letter, of that steady Zeal and Affection to His Person and Government, and that Concern for the Prosperity of the Church which have so eminently appeared in all your former Assemblies, and of His entire Confidence of your continuing in the same good Spirit and Disposition, must without doubt give the greatest Satisfaction to this venerable Assembly.

I am fully instructed to renew to you in His Majesty's Name, the Assurances of His Royal Resolution to maintain inviolably the Rights and Privileges of the Church of Scotland as by Law Established, which I do with great Pleasure.

There having been Representations made to His Majesty by former Assemblies and their Commissions, setting forth, That Popery and Ignorance do encrease and prevail in the Highlands and Islands, and that one of the principal Causes thereof, is the large Extent of the Parishes in those Parts, whereby the Ministers of those Parishes find themselves unable to visit their Parishioners in their several Bounds as they ought, and give them such Instruction as is necessary to enlighten them, and arm them against the Practises of many Popish Priests that resort thither, in order to pervert, and seduce them from the Profession, and Principles of the Reformed Religion; and that the most probable Means to prevent those Practices, wou'd be to give some proper Encouragement to Itinerant Preachers and Catechists to go into those Parts, and be assisting to the Ministers establish'd there.

His Majesty has impowered me to inform you, That he is firmly resolved to promote and encourage as much as in him lies, so good and pious a Design, and is therefore pleased to order the Sum of One Thousand Pounds Yearly to be appointed during his Royal Pleasure, and applied solely for the Provision and Entertainment of such Itinerant Ministers and Catechists as shall be employed in those Parts for the Purposes above-mentioned. And that it is His Royal Will and Pleasure, That the said Sum of One Thousand Pounds be distributed and applied by this and succeeding Assemblies, or such Persons as they shall authorize and appoint for the Ends aforesaid, and that a due State of the Distribution be annually laid before the Lord High Treasurer, or the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the time being, that His Majesty may give such farther Directions as he shall think most proper for the Ends above-mentioned.

The Steps His Majesty is taking for the Peace and Tranquility of the Highlands, will facilitate your doing of your Duty in this important Matter, and give you an Opportunity by the Ways of Example, Perswasion, and Conviction, to put some Stop to the spreading Ignorance and Profaneness on the one Hand, and the trafficking of Popish Priests and Emissaries on the other, in the Highlands and Islands. I know you will receive this great and fresh Mark of His Majesty's Favour with all imaginable Gratitude, and that you will take particular Care of the Application of His Majesty's Royal Bounty to the pious Ends for which it is designed.

Right Reverend and Right Honourable,

His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon me the Honour of representing His Royal Person in this Assembly: Your Conduct in former Assemblies, and particularly in that where I had the Honour to bear the same Character, encouraged me to undertake this great Trust, which I shall endeavour to discharge with Duty and Fidelity to His Majesty, and with that Regard which I have always had to the Interest of the Church of Scotland.

The Spirit of Unanimity and Moderation which His Majesty Recommends to you, is so much your Duty, and I perswade myself so much your Disposition, that I doubt not you will with the usual Prudence of the Assemblies of this Church, apply yourselves to such Measures as may conduce most to the flourishing of the Church, by promoting of true Religion and Piety, and discouraging Vice and Immorality, with such a Temper, that brotherly Love and Affection may shine in all your Debates and Proceedings.

Custom-House, London, May 8, 1725.

Whereas Gib. Jarvis alias Tomkin, Jacob Walter, John Humphrey, and Edward Jarvis alias —— Tomkin, notorious Owlers and Smugglers, were some Time since transported by due Course of Law; And whereas the Commissioners of the Customs have rectived Information, that the said Gib. Jarvis alias Tomkin, Jacob Walter, John Humphry, and Edward Jarvis alias —— Tomkin, are returned into the Kingdom of Great Britain, and now actually follow the Smuggling Trade in the Counties of Kent and Sussex: These are to give Notice, that if any Person or Persons shall Discover and Apprehend the said Gib. Jarvis alias Tomkin, Jacob Walter, John Humphry, and Edward Jarvis alias —— Tomkin, or either of them, so as they may be brought to Tryal for returning from Transportation, such Person or Persons so discovering as aforesaid, shall receive from the said Commissioners the Reward of 40 l. for each of the